14th December 1938]

Increase of the pay of Government medical officers.

*121 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the question of increasing the pay of medical men in Government service was considered by the Government previously and refused; and

(*b*) if so, on what grounds?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*b*) The question does not arise."

High percentage of insanity among people on the West Coast.

* 122 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any special enquiry was made after the census of 1931 or any other census into the causes which led to the very high percentage of insanity on the West Coast as per successive census figures; and

(*b*) if no enquiry has been made, whether there is any proposal to make special enquiry?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative. It is likely that the figures shown against Malabar in the census reports include the patients from other districts also, as mental patients from Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, South Kanara and Anjengo were also admitted in the Mental Hospital, Calicut.

"(*b*) The answer is in the negative."

SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there is a special remark in the census report that the increase is not due to the lunatics in the Calicut Mental Hospital, and that there are more Malayali mad-men in parts outside Malabar than Tamil Nad mad-men in Malabar?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am very thankful to the hon. Member for the information." (Renewed laughter.)

High percentage of blindness among people on the West Coast.

* 123 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the cause of the very large percentage of blindness on the West Coast according to successive census reports has ever been investigated; and

(*b*) if not whether the Government have any proposal to enquire into the question?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) The answer is in the negative."

Educational concessions to converts from depressed class Hindus.

* 124 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to refer to the debates in the Legislative Council on 25th March 1929 and the answer given to my question No. 224 on 10th August 1929 as to educational concessions to depressed classes and converts to Christianity from them and to state—

(a) what development has taken place in regard to such concessions in Government, local board, municipal and aided schools;

(b) what grievances have been brought to the notice of Government in regard to educational concessions to Christian converts from the depressed classes—new converts as well as descendants of old converts; and

(c) what action Government have taken to redress the grievances, if any?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (a) No change has taken place in regard to the concessions covered by the answer to the interpellation asked on the 10th August 1929.

" (b) & (c) Besides the concessions referred to above, district boards and municipal councils may, at their discretion, grant full-fee concessions to schedule castes pupils reading in their secondary schools. Representations have been received regarding the extension of these optional fee concessions to converts from scheduled castes. The Government have ordered that where such concessions were actually enjoyed, but were recently withdrawn, they should be restored to the pupils concerned."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" May I know whether this rule of concession to the Christian converts from the depressed classes applies to the old and new converts alike—I mean to the descendants of the old converts?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The answer is exactly what is stated in the answer; I cannot further amplify it."

Government control over foreign lotteries and sweepstakes.

* 125 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answers given on 15th August 1938 to my questions Nos. 4 and 5, will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to